2003 REPORT TO CONGRESS

Activity at a 25-acre constructed wetland completed as part of a section 319 project with participation of three landowners in the Jim Ford Creek of the Clearwater River system. Learn more about this project on pages 9-12 of this report.

Taking Plans to Action

STATE OF IDAHO NONPOINT SOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Department of
Environmental Quality
1410 North Hilton
Boise, ID 83706

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IDAHO NONPOINT SOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

OVERVIEW

Each year the Program is obligated to submit a Report to Congress. The Report is intended for a general audience and highlights activities conducted during that calendar year. Highlights include primarily focus on project outcomes, assessing progress made in the field, and project close out summaries. The *Taking Plans-to-Action: 2003 Program Annual Report* describes overall activities conducted by the program and can be accessed at http://www.deq.state.id.us/water/nps/Annual_Report_2003_Full.pdf

The *2003 Report to Congress* is divided into three sections. The first section provides an introduction and overview of the project field evaluation season. The full report *2003 Field Evaluation Progress Report* can be accessed at http://www.deq.state.id.us/water/nps/FieldEvalReport_2003.pdf

The second section of report summarizes work conducted in four "placed-based" areas around the state. The four areas focused on this year that really provide the best example of project accomplishments were: Jim Ford Creek of the Clearwater River, Medicine Lodge Creek, Paradise Creek of the Columbia River System, and Thomas Fork Creek.

The third section provides twelve summaries of sixteen completed projects. These projects represent five of the seven sectors represented by the state's 1999 Nonpoint Source Management Plan. Many of these projects took between two and three years to complete. Each summary provides a brief discussion about the benefits and outcome of the project. Additional information can be obtained for these projects by contacting the manager of the program.

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SECTION 1

Results of the 2003 Project Field Evaluation Season

DEQ currently oversees approximately 50 NPS regional projects in Idaho. Each project is assigned a contract number. If projects are extended to several years with additional tasks and funding, additional contract numbers may be assigned to a project area (see Table 1). All projects are subject to field inspections by DEQ. DEQ's Nonpoint Source Program manager set a goal to evaluate the progress of at least half of all current projects annually, to assure the projects are completed in a timely manner and achieve their overarching goal of cleaning up and preventing NPS water pollution. During the summer and fall of 2003 staff from the DEQ Technical Services Division exceeded that goal by inspecting 32 of 50 on-going NPS contracted projects.

DEQ used its list of NPS field project requirements to generate a detailed form for staff to use for field evaluations. For all evaluations DEQ staff carefully reviewed the project's subgrant agreement and made notes prior to going to the field. The DEQ project evaluator routinely contacted the project manager and arranged to accompany the project manager, DEQ regional staff, and any other stakeholders to the field. In all cases the detailed evaluation form was used as a guide to assure that all NPS requirements were being met in the field.

DEQ staff traveled to 25 geographical areas of Idaho and evaluated 32 contracted projects during the summer and fall of 2003. Of the 32 contracts evaluated, 28 appear to be fully meeting their contractual obligations by demonstrating substantial progress toward completion of their designated tasks to reduce, eliminate, or prevent NPS water pollution. Three contracts appear to be proceeding unsatisfactorily, and work on one contract has been delayed until next year.

Two of the projects where unsatisfactory work is occurring include storm water BMPs at the City of Blackfoot and storm water BMPs at the City of Pocatello.

During our evaluation of the Blackfoot projects (Contract Number S020) DEQ learned that the Blackfoot Tribe, which owns adjacent land, has elected to not let the City of Blackfoot use their land at the outflow end of both retention ponds involved in this project. This denial of land use will cause the storm water capacity of one pond to be reduced considerably and will cause the other pond to not function as a flow-through facility as originally designed. No further 319 funds should be spent on either pond until this problem can be solved.

During our evaluation of the City of Pocatello's North City Park Wetland project DEQ discovered that there seems to be a problem with the proposed location of the bioinfiltration/wetland facility. It appears that the area selected for the wetland and bioinfiltration basin will not be maintainable without the installation of a costly irrigation system. An irrigation system would be required because the bottom of the proposed wetland would be situated too far above the water table for the wetland to be self-sustainable. It is also unclear whether the conveyance pipeline and outlet that has already been installed will work properly in a storm event. After discussing the project with DEQ engineers and the city engineer it is suggested that no additional 319 funds be spent on this project until these issues have been resolved.

The great majority of the projects evaluated in 2003 are proceeding satisfactorily. The project evaluations covered a variety of best management practices (BMPs) related to recognized NPS categories including agriculture, hydrologic habitat modification, transportation, mining, and urban storm water runoff.

Projects evaluated include irrigation water cleanup, wetland creation, and settling ponds in south-central and southeast Idaho; Animal Feeding Operation (AFO) relocations, stream bank restoration, livestock exclusion,; and restoration of an abandoned mine dump near Yellow Pine, in north-central Idaho. Finally, in the watershed above Winchester Reservoir, DEQ evaluated pollution prevention measures including low-till and no-till farming techniques, and lake water cleanup techniques in Winchester Reservoir including lake water aeration.

In section 1, Table 1 lists details of all 32 of the NPS contracted projects that were evaluated in the field during the summer and fall of 2003. These 32 contracts occurred at 28 project sites around Idaho. In Section 2, four project areas?the Jim Ford Creek Watershed Enhancement Project, the Thomas Fork Stream Bank Protection Project, the Medicine Lodge Creek Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Project, and the Paradise Creek TMDL Implementation Project are highlighted because they exemplify outstanding coordination, design, and implementation. Reports of all 28-project evaluations are contained as an appendix to this report or can be accessed electronically through links from Table 1.

FIGURE 1
Active Nonpoint Source Projects that Were Field Evaluated during Summer/Fall 2003

TABLE 1

Active Nonpoint Source Projects That Were Field Evaluated during Summer/Fall 2003

Grant Year	Contract Number*	Project Name	Hydrologic Unit No.	Tasks or BMPs Evaluated	DEQ Region
2000	Q609	Bear River Fencing and Riparian Enhancement	16010202	Stream bank stabilization, fencing, grazing plans, weed control	Pocatello
2000, 2001	Q607 and S020	Blackfoot, City of, Engineered Wetland and Urban Runoff	Two storm water retention	ponds	Pocatello
1998,1999	Q529 and Q366	Coeur d' Alene Tribe Wetland Creation and Restoration/Lake Creek – Plummer	1701030423	Sediment control BMPs for dirt roads	Coeur d' Alene
2003		Cedar Draw Coulee Wetland		A series of three serpentine shaped ponds that will be interconnected with riparian wetland areas	Twin Falls
2003	S093	Edson Fichter Nature Area		Revetments, seeding along stream bank, restoration of 700 feet of meandering stream channel, installation of 300 feet of pipe to convey water to a settling pond, installation of a small settling pond	Pocatello
1999	S029	H 17 Drain TMDL Implementation Plan		200 feet long and 50 feet wide sediment basin installed at the bottom end of a six-mile long irrigation canal; captures sediment from return irrigation water prior to discharge to Goose Creek and Snake River.	Twin Falls
2002	S055	Hailey Big Wood River Improvement	17040219	Stream bank stabilization – 1300 feet, Rock drop structures – 4 Removed highway maintenance material that was adjacent to river, Planted woody and grass vegetation along bank and filter strip Removed illegal land fill including asbestos, Installed ? acre settling pond/wetland used for normal river flow and for storm water runoff	Twin Falls
2001	S015	Jim Ford Creek Watershed Enhancement	17060306	Road rocking and culvert installation, 6 miles of exclusion fencing, 9200 willow cuttings planted, 3300 lodgepole pine seedlings planted, 1100 dogwood seedlings planted, 2500 hawthorne seedlings planted, 100 alders, 100 cottonwoods, 200 spirea planted One quarter mile of stream rehabilitation and re-alignment completed	Lewiston
2001	S041	Kinsey Corral relocation Note: This project has been delayed and will be completed next year.		We visited the current location of Kinsey corral and discussed the relocation and reclamation of the old site. We observed where 3,500 feet of exclusionary fencing will go to keep livestock out of McMullen Creek. We visited the site where the new corral will be built	Twin Falls
2002	S054	Lemhi Watershed TMDL Implementation		Fencing, diversion berms, pipe line, water troughs, well	Twin Falls
2003	S079	Maine Purrine Coulee Wetland		Future site for a concrete diversion structure, a large (8 acre) settling pond and several wetlands These features will treat 80 to 90% of all the water coming through Main Perrine Coulee	Twin Falls
2002	S051	Medicine Lodge Creek TMDL Implementation	1704021505 0100	Willow Clumps, Willow pole plantings Toe rock rip rap, Vertical bundles of willows, V-Notch weirs used for drop structures, Grass, Fencing	Idaho Falls

Grant Year	Contract Number*	Project Name	Hydrologic Unit No.	Tasks or BMPs Evaluated	DEQ Region
2001	S039	North-central AFO Relocation		Relocation of numerous AFOs belonging to 27 operators over five conservation districts BMPs include corral relocations, hardened crossings, fencing, culverts and water troughs	Lewiston
1999	Q562	Paradise Creek (Urban) TMDL Implementation	17060108	Wetlands, stream channel restoration, extensive plantings, fencing, woody plant riparian buffers, wildlife habitat structures stream bank stabilization, noxious weed control, flood plain restoration	Lewiston
2000	Q605	Paradise Creek (Rural) TMDL Implementation	17060108	Wetlands – 5 projects totaling 522,700 square feet within 11 wetlands, gully plugs, fencing – 16,000 feet, woody vegetation – 10,547 plants, herbaceous vegetation – 168,680 plants stream bank restoration – 18,750 feet, noxious weed control, storm water bioinfiltration ponds, vegetated buffer – 685,364 square feet (Note: all figures are proposed amounts upon project completion)	Lewiston
1997	Completed	Pocatello First Street Wetland	17040208	3 acre combined wetland and retention/evaporation basin	Pocatello
2001	S022	Pocatello North City Park Wetland	17040208	One small catchment basin has been constructed, conveyance pipeline and infiltration sump have been installed, a large bioinfiltration wetland basin could be constructed in an oxbow to the Portneuf River	Pocatello
1999	Q508	Raft River Riparian and Watershed Demonstration		Rock crossings, rock drop structures-20, stream bank stabilization revetments, 12 diversion structures, 12 weirs, 12 concrete irrigation return flow structures, plantings including willows and grass, grazing management	Twin Falls
2001	S023	Rapid Creek Riparian Project		Water well and pump, corral modification, pipeline, water troughs, 1,500 feet of fencing, stream bank restoration, grass and woody plantings	Pocatello
2001	S026	Rock Creek Restoration	17010304	Two storm water detention ponds, stream bank sloping and stabilization geo-matting, seeding, trees, shrubs, sprinkler system, installation of 5000 yards of topsoil, removal of old concrete from a two acre area, installation of two pedestrian bridges across Rock Creek	Twin Falls
2001	S024	Santa Creek Stream Bank Restoration	17010304	Electric fencing, hard crossings , re-vegetation along stream bank including wild rose, willow, aspen, thin leaf alder, syringa, wild apple, white pine, ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, and larch	Coeur d' Alene
1999, 2000	Q564 and S009	Scriver Creek Watershed Roads and Forested Lands	17050112	Sediment control BMPs for dirt roads including culverts, gravel road base, road sloping, ditches, two sediment collection/measuring boxes	Boise
1996	Q444	Sheridan Creek Restoration	17040202	Nine large diversions completed, (one remaining to be completed), 14 miles of fencing, 10 rock check dams, six culverts numerous rock drop structures, 0.5 mile of riparian plantings along stream banks, one water well	Idaho Falls

Grant Year	Contract Number*	Project Name	Hydrologic Unit No.	Tasks or BMPs Evaluated	DEQ Region
2003	Internal	Stibnite Mine Meadow Creek Restoration		Two sub-project areas include the Glory Hole project and Meadow Creek area. Glory Hole BMPs include relocation and stabilization of mine tailings, adjacent to Meadow Creek. Meadow Creek BMPs include construction of a large composting operation, application of compost to reclaimed mine waste piles, additional reclamation of mine waste piles, installation of stream bank plantings	Boise
2001, 2002	S016, and S053	Thomas Fork Stream Bank Protection	16010102	Numerous rock barbs, 13,267 feet of stream bank sloping and riprapping, 13,267 feet of stream bank plantings including grass and woody vegetation, 10,000 of fencing, drop fencing for variable flows, one 18 foot wide and 66 foot long bridge across Thomas Fork River, one manure separator, one wetland complex.	Pocatello
2000	Q606	Willow /Boulder Creeks BMP Implementation	17050123	Fencing, hardened crossings, trees and scrubs, stream bank restoration and stabilization, cattle exclusion, pest management	Boise
2002	S043	Winchester Lake In-Lake Phosphorous Reduction	17060306	Five electric powered aerators installed on Winchester Lake, one fish cleaning station	Lewiston
1999	S011	Winchester Lake Upper Lapwai Creek Watersheds	17060306	Nine fish friendly culverts, filter strips between cultivated fields and dirt roads, no-till farming techniques applied to 30% of all cultivated fields, reduced till farming techniques applied to 60% of all cultivated fields, grass planted in intermittent waterways	Lewiston

*More than one contract number for a project indicates that additional funding was later granted for additional tasks.